

Washington, D.C. - Rep. David Price (D-NC) released the followings statement this afternoon calling Republican efforts, lead by North Carolina Senator Richard Burr (R-NC), to pass S. 1116, the Department of Commerce and Workforce Consolidation Act, "an incredibly wrong-headed move for North Carolina families in this time of fragile recovery." Among other changes, the bill would end the Small Business Administration as we know it by collapsing the agency into a new Department of Commerce and the Workforce.

"Senator Burr's bill ending the Small Business Administration as we know it is an incredibly wrong-headed move for North Carolina families in this time of fragile recovery. Small businesses are our engines of job creation across North Carolina, and in our state the SBA's Small Business Innovation Research program has helped hundreds of businesses and created thousands of jobs. We should be boosting SBA programs that help small business owners expand and hire workers, not chipping away at the agency.

"Sadly, this effort picks up where George W. Bush left off after he slashed funding for the SBA in half and threw the agency out of his cabinet. Now is the time to invest in the things that ensure our economic success—education, small business innovation, research and infrastructure—but in debate after debate, Republicans insist on a vision of America that puts big business and the wealthy before helping middle class families and ensuring economic success. I am resolved to fight this and other backward, Republican efforts. This is bad economic policy, and it's inconsistent with our priorities and values."

According to the SBA, the nation's 28 million small businesses employ over half of the private sector workforce and account for over half of the nation's GDP.

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